

Message Text

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11

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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R 261511Z AUG 75 ZFG

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6953

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 5603

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, PL

SUBJECT: THE PROSPECTIVE POLISH TARIFF

REF: STATE 201441

1. IN VIEW OF THE INCREASED ACTIVITY AT THE MTN NEGOTIATIONS, AND EMBOFF DISCUSSED THE PROSPECTIVE POLISH TARIFF WITH EUGENIUSZ PIONTEK, A POLISH LAW PROFESSOR WHO OFTEN SERVES AS A CONSULTANT TO THE POLISH GOVERNMENT ON QUESTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO GATT.

2. DURING THE AUGUST 25 CONVERSATION, PIONTEK SAID THAT THE DETAILS OF THE POLISH TARIFF ARE STILL CONFIDENTIAL. HOWEVER, IT WILL PROBABLY BE SIMILAR TO THE HUNGARIAN TARIFF, IN THAT IT WILL BE A MULTI-COLUMN TARIFF, WITH COLUMNS FOR COUNTRIES ENJOYING MFN; ANOTHER COLUMN FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; AND A THIRD FOR THOSE NOT INCLUDED IN THE FIRST TWO. UNLIKE THE HUNGARIAN TARIFF, THERE WILL BE NO PROVISION FOR BORDER TARIFF
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ADJUSTMENTS. PIONTEK SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES

WOULD, OF COURSE, RECEIVE MFN TREATMENT.

3. HE ALSO SAID THAT POLAND'S LONG TERM GOAL IS TO BECOME PART OF A EUROPEAN FREE TRADE AREA. HE AGREED THAT POLAND'S CURRENCY WOULD HAVE TO BECOME CONVERTIBLE BEFORE IT COULD JOIN SUCH AN AREA, AND HE SAID THAT IT HAS ALREADY BECOME OFFICIAL POLICY TO TAKE STEPS TOWARD EVENTUAL CONVERTIBILITY. HE NOTED THAT POLAND HAS MOVED IN THIS DIRECTION WITH SOME OF ITS TRADING PARTNERS, AND THAT POLAND HAS RECOGNIZED THAT A RATIONAL PRICE SYSTEM IS A PREREQUISITE FOR A CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY. THE CURRENT ROUND OF PRICE INCREASES WAS MOTIVATED BY THE DESIRE TO MAKE PRICES COVER THE FULL COST OF PRODUCTION, AND HE ADDED THAT THE SAME REASONING WILL LEAD TO STILL FURTHER PRICE INCREASES IN THE NEAR FUTURE, PROBABLY AROUND JANUARY. DAVIS

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